

our failure to resolve this matter is slowly transforming this monument into a symbol of inflexibility and false pride.

On November 7, 1997, I introduced H. Res. 312 to remedy the situation. Along with members of the Wyoming State Legislature and Philippine Ambassador Raul Chaves Rabe, I propose a compromise whereby this solitary and isolated memorial will be converted into fitting monuments located on both sides of the world dedicated to the peace, friendship and cooperation that have existed between the United States and the Filipino people. This compromise calls for the United States and the Republic of the Philippines to share the bells. The bells will be recast and duplicates made. The United States and the Philippines will each keep an original and a duplicate. The Philippine government has even expressed willingness to absorb the costs involved. H. Res. 312 would facilitate this proposal, which I hope my colleagues will take the time to reconsider.

As we welcome President Fidel Ramos to our country, let us honor this man whose career and accomplishments has been a manifestation of Philippine-American friendship and cooperation through the years. Let us not dwell upon long forgotten conflicts and altercations. Instead, let us move forward and, as we have always done in the past, work together in the promotion of our mutual goals.

KING ON THE HILL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell the House a story about one of my most accomplished constituents from Colorado. Thirteen year old Kyle King of Limon, Colorado stopped by our Congressional office in Washington, D.C., last week. It was my last appointment before returning home to Colorado for a few days of town meetings on the eastern plains.

Kyle was accompanied by his parents Deb and Greg. Limon Jr. Highschool recessed for spring break giving Kyle and his folks a perfect chance to visit the nation's capital.

By the time we met up, the Kings had already seen the most prominent sites, shrines and monuments to our country's history. But the real reason they came to Washington was to see Kyle's big sister Amanda.

Amanda's been in Washington now for nine months. She's sixteen years old, has never before been so far away from home, and she's certainly never been away for such a long time.

A couple years back, Amanda made up her mind that she wanted to be a Congressional Page—not an ordinary sort of ambition, especially for a youngster growing up on the high plains. But to Deb and Greg, Amanda has never been anything short of extraordinary. They encouraged her to apply.

The Page Program is extremely competitive. Several thousand high schoolers from across America apply for the honor of serving on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

The first requirement for consideration is to secure sponsorship by a Member of Con-

gress. I receive dozens of applications per year out of Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. For the full-time position, I may sponsor only one, which only means the applicant I choose will then be considered by the Speaker of the House.

Since time away from home entails a disrupted academic calendar, only the best and brightest are accepted. Successful applicants enter an alternative education program built around a busy and unpredictable work schedule. Pages are housed in college-style dormitories one block from the Capitol building.

There are 435 Members of Congress. This year, only 66 Pages were selected.

Being a new Member of Congress, I was told any applicant from my district was a long shot. I lobbied hard for Amanda King anyway, betting the strength of her resume would compensate for my lack of seniority.

Naturally, I was as excited as Amanda upon receiving the news she had been accepted into the Page Program.

Amanda is too modest about the significance and importance of her position. It's much more than a nice recognition for a country girl done well.

She is an ambassador for Colorado and specifically for the City of Limon. It's a role she fulfills exceptionally well. Her peers joke that they can't get her to stop talking about life out West.

A few months back, I visited Limon Elementary School to talk to students about my job as a Congressman. My presentation covered the usual topics of taxes, education, agriculture and so on. But the first question from Principal Valerie Bass was, "How often do you get to see Amanda King? How's she doing?"

Similarly, last month, I spoke at a dinner in Hugo, Colorado, commemorating Abraham Lincoln's birthday. Again, the people in the hall asked for an update on Amanda. I was proud to provide it.

Amanda is clearly one of the House's favorite Pages. She's one of the most reliable. In addition to fetching documents, and relaying messages, Pages make the actual floor work run smoothly. They greet many of the tourists and visitors at the Capitol, and they must know the intricacies of House procedures in order to do their jobs. Amanda knows the process better than most senior Members.

During moments of down time, I sometimes rehearse portions of my speeches before walking onto the floor and I seek out Amanda for her opinion. Her advice has always been useful and I'm convinced that her grammatical suggestions have made me more persuasive.

Most of all, Amanda's enthusiasm for America is infectious. She is optimistic about the nation's future and her role in shaping it. I've spoken with her about her personal goals and dreams, and I know she views herself within a patriotic context.

Last week's meeting in the office with the King family was one of the most inspiring I've had so far as a Congressman. It shifted my perspective somewhat.

Usually I think my success in Congress is measured by my effectiveness with legislation and budgeting the public's funds. And although I'm encouraged to have accomplished more than most of my colleagues on behalf of the people I represent, it became even more clear that one of the most rewarding things I've been able to do is sponsor Amanda King as a Congressional Page.

The eyes of Amanda's parents revealed the love and affection they hold for her. Though they miss her terribly they are thrilled by her accomplishments. Furthermore, their time on Capitol Hill with their daughter confirmed she's doing quite well.

Kyle learned much watching his sister serve her country. Deb's and Greg's pride is certainly well placed.

RECOGNIZING THE 1998 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the 1998 University of Illinois men's basketball team. Under the stewardship of Coach Lon Kruger, a team that was predicted to finish in the middle of the Big Ten in the most optimistic pre-season polls, the Illini men finished the season tied for the best record in the Big Ten. The sportswriters said that they didn't have any big name stars to lead them much further than mediocrity. What the sportswriters failed to understand was the determination and heart that this team would display throughout the season. Coach Kruger never doubted his team and his players never doubted themselves or their ability to compete against other Big Ten schools. The Illini had a precious commodity that many other schools lacked: Senior Leadership. Led by a group of Seniors that I have had the opportunity to watch evolve from wide-eyed freshman to steely veterans, the Illini shocked the Big Ten. Senior Kevin Turner exemplifies that evolution, as he led the Illini in scoring and was named to the All-Big Ten Conference team. However, I was disappointed that Lon Kruger did not receive the Big Ten Coach of the Year award, because he has done such an outstanding job. Coach Kruger, along with Seniors Turner, Jarrod Gee, Matt Heldman, Jerry Hester, Brian Johnson and Jelani Boline led the Illini to their best Big Ten record in recent memory. They then participated in the NCAA Tournament and beat a solid team from South Alabama in the first round. Although the Maryland Terrapins put an end to their incredible season in the second round, the Illini fought to the bitter end before falling in a close contest. Coach Kruger and the entire University of Illinois men's basketball team deserve the recognition of the House of Representatives for their incredible season. I would like to remind the Speaker that Midnight Madness and the start of the 1999 NCAA basketball season is only 198 days away.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SOCIAL SECURITY SUNSHINE ACT OF 1988"

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, without question the national dialogue to save social security is

under way. But what good is a national dialogue if the participants do not have all the information they need to participate in an informed and meaningful debate? Today I am offering legislation to help foster a genuine dialogue about Social Security. As we thoughtfully look at ways of personalizing and modernizing our current system, we need to ensure that the discussion is a careful one, and we need to include those most affected by the program—current beneficiaries. My legislation will help educate seniors about their status in the current system by providing them information about their current benefits. As the Ways and Means Committee today holds a hearing on a proposal to conduct a National Dialogue on Social Security in 1998, my legislation is designed to build on this idea by helping Americans understand the problem this system faces and design a long-range program to modernize Social Security.

This legislation is a sunshine bill, much like my pilot program enacted into law in the 104th Congress. It is designed to assist seniors better understand their contributions and benefits under the social security system. *Beginning January 1, 1999, beneficiaries of Social Security will receive two annual statements detailing: (1) The total wages and self-employment income the individual has earned; (2) the total contributions of the employer, employee and self-employment from wages; (3) the total amount paid to the individual as benefits, and; (4) an explanation of the statement in easily understood terms.*

Numerous seniors in my district find it ironic that other retirement benefit programs like mutual funds, IRAs and the like, provide this type of information, in writing, on a quarterly basis—and many provide participants direct 24-hour access by telephone. My bill would require that the Social Security Administration provide reasonable information in a reasonable timeframe.

As we know, Social Security is an unfunded pay-as-you-go system. Today's benefits to the elderly are paid by today's taxes from the young. Recently, the government's own actuaries reported that Social Security's Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Trust Funds will go broke in 2030. By that time, payroll taxes on fewer than two workers will support each retiree, a sharp decline from 1980 when the ratio was 3.5 to 1—and an even further decline from 1950 when the ratio was 16 to 1. This will occur as a result of demographic factors in the system and is not the fault of seniors.

Short-term fixes of the past to increase revenue or reduce benefits will be unsuccessful in postponing insolvency. Furthermore, the Social Security Administration's own pessimistic estimates indicate that by 2040 a combined employer-employee payroll tax of 40 percent could be required to pay benefits. Raising the already burdensome payroll tax for the 18th time in the history of the program is simply not an option.

Unfortunately, many seniors, including my own mother, are not aware of the state of the system or the impending crisis. The lack of information provided to them and every other senior is simply unacceptable. Seniors across the country have a desire—indeed, a right—to know about the status of their participation in the Social Security system. My bill would guarantee seniors access to this important information and include them in our national dia-

logue. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF IRENE SILLIMAN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

STEVE C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Mr. LATOURETTE, and I rise today to honor a woman who is truly dedicated to our nation's troops, Irene Silliman. Mrs. Silliman is a harbinger of goodwill and warmth to the United States Navy, providing them with slippers to keep them warm on the decks of their cold ships.

A 72-year-old grandmother from Madison, OH, Irene Silliman started what has turned in to a national project by providing hand-knitted slipper socks to sailors on her grandson's vessel. After receiving a letter from her grandson requesting a pair of the socks, Silliman determined that she would make extra pairs for his shipmates. She organized a group of friends and began a phenomenon called "Operation Toasty Toes" that has engulfed the senior population of Northeast Ohio.

After receiving several calls from interested volunteers, Silliman spearheaded an effort to make these Toasty Toes slipper socks for the entire crew of the U.S.S. *Carney*, the destroyer on which her grandson is stationed. National newspapers have picked up the story and a multitude of citizens nationwide are now feverishly working on new pairs of slippers to send to the troops.

Irene Silliman is truly devoted to her country and the well-being of our servicemen and women. Her selfless effort to organize a crusade to provide warmth and comfort to our soldiers is truly a testament of her patriotic spirit. Mrs. Silliman wished to show our American troops that she and others cared about them and through their efforts, this has been accomplished.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting a true patriot whose selfless devotion to our American troops is evident through her efforts, Irene Silliman.

SALUTING CEASAR CHAVEZ

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to rise and salute one of the most inspirational leaders of our country, Cesar Chavez. Cesar Chavez is a legend within the Latino community and our nation. He is one of my heroes as well. This past Saturday, March 28, 1998, I had the pleasure of participating in a street dedication ceremony renaming a street in the predominantly Hispanic community on the west side of Kansas City in my Congressional District, Avenida Cesar Chavez. The festive atmosphere of the ceremony was enhanced by the presence of Richard Chavez, Cesar's younger brother,

who has continued the work which Cesar started to benefit all working men and women. Visiting with Richard and listening to his experiences demonstrated the extraordinary nature which one, and later many, dedicated individuals can have on bettering our community and nation.

In 1962, when Cesar Chavez founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), his purpose was to unite all of the Mexican farm workers in California in their struggle for better wages and working conditions.

Cesar Chavez was a very charismatic leader, who headed a movement that used only nonviolent tactics. Cesar Chavez used strikes and boycotts as leverage in applying economic pressure on the employers to settle wage disputes and improve the work environment.

Cesar Chavez was a visionary who built consensus. He realized that the existence of oppression towards any group of people was wrong, so he joined the fight to help further the cause for Filipino farm workers. In 1965, during the Grape Boycotts, Filipino and Mexican workers united and protested the low wages and poor working conditions. In 1970 this remarkable effort resulted in an amicable resolution. For nearly a decade like many of my generation, I refused to consume grapes to show solidarity.

Muchas gracias otra vez por permitirme esta oportunidad compartir mi sentimiento sobre un grand heroe Americano, Cesar Chavez.

Mr. Speaker, I salute and applaud the efforts of Cesar Chavez and the community leaders in my Congressional District who have the vision to ensure that his memory and works will permanently be remembered for future generations, not only through the dedication of Avenida Cesar Chavez, but by the historical translation passed on from generation to generation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CARIBBEAN
THEATRE WEEK APRIL 5-12, 1998

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inaugural celebration of Caribbean Theatre Week. This unique week was made possible through the diligent efforts of persons at the Daily Challenge, and WLIB Radio, special community leaders and performers who have tirelessly committed themselves to developing events that celebrate the entire spectrum of Caribbean creativity. Caribbean Theatre Week, which will be held in New York on April 5-12, 1998, is a magnificent forum for presenting the significant artistic contributions made by Caribbean performers.

In reviewing the history of the Caribbean, one can ascertain the importance of theatrical production in the Caribbean region. The advent of the Caribbean theatre contributed to the increase in national independence in the Caribbean islands. The theatre often served as a powerful tool for political communication that both defined and reflected the island's culture and identity.

Caribbean Theatre Week is the brainchild of Mr. Dawad Philip, a poet, artist, and editor of